

Bilston East LNP – ‘Special’ Environment Group Meeting

Notes of Dudley St Closure Meeting 2nd July 2007 2.00pm - Innis Fallen House

In Attendance:

Chris Evans, Brian Ashworth, Sue Wood, Sylvia Wellings, Dave Smart, Mark Connell, Simon Lucas, Ron Wright, Lisa Ansell, Joan Oram, Megan Fitzgerald, John Goalby, Anwar Ulhaq, Rev. Raphael Duckett.

- Anwar Ulhaq gave everyone the opportunity to introduce themselves. The notes of the previous meeting were reviewed. Simon Lucas clarified that HGVs turning onto the Black Country Route was an issue which needed to be addressed.
- Simon acknowledged that the BUV scheme had ‘missed a trick’ regarding the impact of traffic on the whole of the scheme. He reported that it hadn’t been picked up via Planning applications. He reported that Waterman’s had undertaken a traffic impact survey and acknowledged that traffic going north on Dudley St was a key issue and thought that the way forward was for solutions and a process be put in place to look at this.
- It was agreed that although the closure of Dudley St was an important local issue, the overall traffic management of the project was the key issue and that there were other streets around Bilston where impacts would be felt. e.g. Oxford St.
- Issues surrounding access to Morrisons from the new road leading from Dudley St were discussed. Simon Lucas produced a map extract showing modifications to the islands design. He outlined that the new island would be engineered such as to deny access to Morrisons when approaching from the Dudley St side. All traffic would have to turn left. This would therefore make the situation traffic neutral.
- Brian Ashworth outlined his concerns about traffic having to turn right from the Black Country Route into Bankfield Rd. Brian also stated that he didn’t think that the Black Country Route would be able to cope with the huge increase in traffic that the BUV scheme would bring.
- It was felt that the Bilston East ‘Special’ Environment group (this group) should be a vehicle which should last the lifetime of the Bilston Urban Village development.
- Simon Lucas stated that Developers involved in the scheme will have to work through existing/future traffic issues with existing stakeholder groups.

- Brian Asworth asked for an overview of where the BUV scheme was currently. Simon gave feedback and re-iterated that that he is happy to build critical items into the contract with the developers, namely that they will have to have regular liaison with this group or members of this group.
- Mrs Sylvia Wellings asked about the development of more houses on the BUV site and commented that with more homes being built would come more cars and more traffic. She also raised issues around parking within the scheme.
- Regarding parking Simon Lucas commented that there may be scope for creative solutions such as future shared car parking schemes (i.e. between the Leisure and Health centres).
- Ron Wright then moved that Officers should leave the meeting for a while whilst community members formulated a response which may resolve some of the issues raised within the formal Dudley St closure objection.
- Officers were asked to return and Reverend Raphael Duckett was selected by the group to feed back.
- Raphael reported that certain **main** items need to be addressed by Simon Lucas and his team in order for the objection to the Dudley St closure to be withdrawn. These were:

A) Up to date traffic reports had previously been requested and had not been forthcoming. The group would now request up to date traffic reports for:

- i) The roundabout at Oxford St and the Black Country Route and the roads from Lichfield St through to Oxford St.
- ii) Highfields Rd/ Dudley St
- iii) Highfields Rd/Ash St
- iv) Station Rd/Temple St

B) The Group want to be a part of the BUV development process and be involved at key stages as the project moves on. This is a major point.

C) The Group would like to see a ban on HGVs using the new road.

D) The Group liked the new suggestion by Simon which restricted access to Morrisons from the Dudley St side.

E) The group want mitigation on the junction of Highfields Rd and Dudley St. Namely, a signalised traffic management (Traffic Lights) and signalised pedestrian crossing system.

F) A signalised Traffic Management system is required at the junction of Baldwin St/ Salop St.

- Raphael then outlined 'other' issues which needed to be addressed before the objection is withdrawn. These are:
 - i) The current parking conditions needed to be reviewed in and around Carder Crescent. Proposals need to be drawn up to limit this in the future .e.g. stopping 'other' vehicles coming in to the estate.
- Simon Lucas stated that Neighbourhood Renewal are currently looking at parking on Carder Crescent. Simon would find out more and get this reported back to the Group.
- Simon stated that he thought that all of these issues could be addressed to the satisfaction of the group and that there was nothing in the content which he didn't think could be resolved.
- Raphael then suggested that Simon provide a timescale of when and how these issues would be addressed to be forwarded to Group members. The timetable should also include future 'key development points' within the BUV scheme.
- Simon agreed to this and said that he thought that this group should reconvene at these 'key development points' in order to work through the traffic implications which may arise from these developments. Raphael backed this up on behalf of the group stating that everyone wanted to be involved in the broader plan.

Next Steps

- Simon Lucas will provide the feedback including a timetable both for the key points raised by the group (see above) and a timetable outlining the trigger points within the scheme which will allow the group to reconvene.
- The objection will not be withdrawn until members are sure that these points will be addressed with a timetable for action.
- This will be presented to the next full LNP meeting with a recommendation that if the timetable and actions are acceptable that the 'Special Environment Group' would endorse the removal of the objection.